

SUPERTOUCH

FIRST LOOK | THE CLAYTON BROTHERS “OPEN TO THE PUBLIC” AT MARK MOORE GALLERY, LA

AUGUST 26, 2014 | ART



Longtime Supertouch buddies Rob & Christian Clayton have just debuted their most mature body of work with their invitingly-titled new show, *Open to the Public* at Mark Moore Gallery in LA's Culver City. Through an expansive exhibition of mixed-media drawings, assemblage, photography, video, and installations, the brotherly art duo examines the mythos, culture, and visual language of an archetypal second-hand store located near their studio. Drawing from their observations of the venue and its visitors, the brothers entwine their independent approaches, styles, and palettes into works that operate as co-authored epics – which are rife with reoccurring motifs, gestures, and figures. The end result is a drama of shared experiences that fuse the concept of self with that of the communal, both in subject matter and practice.

Hailed as a thrifting mecca for several decades, Sun Thrift Store in Sunland, CA draws its share of both unusual characters and the commonplace man - all partaking in the hunt for trash-turned-treasured objects. For this exhibition, the brothers appropriate not only the trinkets and discarded paintings retrieved from the business, but also the handmade signage, categorical displays, and shopper behavior. Unlike the polished and elaborate paintings that the brothers are known for, anonymous figures are drawn with stark immediacy – personalities that correspond with a series of projected candid photographs of perusing customers and muted wall spaces. Acting as flâneurs or urban observers, the brothers investigate both the construct of “thrifting culture” as well as the members that form this unique microcosm of consumption. Taken as a whole, the exhibition draws upon the subject matter of the everyday as a window into contemporary Americana. Through a nonpartisan lens, “Open to the Public” explicates the people’s narrative as a universal struggle to create, cherish and ultimately abandon.

If you're in LA, be sure to catch it before Sept 27th...

*Additional photos by Greg Escalante

